

**REMARKS**

This Response addresses the issues raised by Examiner in the Office Action mailed April 9, 2004. Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this case. Claims 1-2, 4-19 and 32 are presently pending. Claims 2, 7, 14 and 16 have been amended and Claim 33 has been added. Non-elected Claims 20-31 are canceled without prejudice to Applicants filing a divisional application directed thereto. Thus, Claims 1-2, 4-19 and 32 are pending in this case all to more clearly and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments as they place the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for possible appeal.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 15 and 19 are allowed. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 2, 7, 14 and 32 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection set forth in the Office Action. Finally, Applicants thank the Examiner to indicating that Claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

**Claim Objections**

The Examiner objects to Claim 14 because the phrase "preferably---" has not been deleted. Also, the Examiner objects to Claim 32 which depends on Claim 14. The Examiner further objects to the phrase "in particular" in claim 2 and "preferably---" in Claim 7 and suggests that separate claims with narrow limitations be added.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the claims have been amended so as to avoid the various formal objections. Thus, the various terms objected to by the Examiner as set forth in the Office Action no longer appear in the claims. In particular, Applicants have amended Claim 14 to delete the phrase "preferably---". Claim 2 has been amended to delete the phrase "in particular". Claim 7 has been amended to delete the phrase "preferably---". Also, as Examiner suggests, Applicants have added new Claim 33 to include that the inert gas is added at a temperature of 100°C to 160°C. Accordingly, these objections have thus been

obviated and should be withdrawn.

**Rejection Based On 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner rejects Claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to expedite prosecution, Claim 16 has been amended to clarify that one or more additional substances may be introduced into the extruder along with the polycondensate. The additional substances that may be added to the polycondensate are color pigments, filler, processing aids, stabilizer and substances reacting with the polycondensate. Support for currently amended Claim 16 appears, for example, in the Specification at page 11 at lines 8-14. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is requested. If the Examiner believes that additional issues need to be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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